

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of April 16, 2014

Board members attending were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield, Christopher Tonkin, Phil Goff and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko and Terry Gleason (Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee) were also present.

*Approval of the minutes of the March meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were approved, as amended, by unanimous vote.

Report of TAC activities—Mass. Ave. Restriping. We reviewed the current plans for the restriping of a portion of Mass. Ave. west of Arlington Center. This section of the street varies considerably in width so the striping plan is complex. Jack asked about the location of the sharrows on segments of the road with insufficient room for side by side lane sharing. We had a short debate about how far the sharrows should be from the curb. Most of us preferred a location in the middle of the right lane because of improved visibility and durability. Scott identified another narrow segment between Town Hall and the Pleasant St. intersection where sharrows will also be used. Christopher asked if the bump-outs in front of the CVS near the High School will remain. Scott answered that the bump-outs will remain and that the parking lane will be marked to make it less likely that cyclists will ride into the curb.

Phil emphasized that it would be useful to know the assumptions the consultants used in making the design. He asked if they had considered a three lane design for the stretch from Academy St. to Pleasant St. which would allow bicycle lanes. Phil explained why he felt that we need to see more of the data collected by the consultants before we can make a decision on the design that is equitable to all modes of transportation. He wants to know whether the projected traffic volume warrants the current four lane design. We decided that the plan should go back to DPW with our concerns and recommendations. Scott will summarize our concerns to TAC. Finally Scott added that the Lowell St./Mass. Ave. intersection is going to be redesigned to reduce exposure for pedestrians walking along Mass Ave and crossing Lowell Street.

Friends Group for the Minuteman Bikeway—Moving forward. Joey told us that she would like to see this topic on the agenda of the tri-community meeting coming up. She asked the Town Manager's office for their assistance in forming a Friends group, because the Bikeway is under their control but the TM's office does not have the resources to help us form a group at this time. Terry told us about the advantages of having a group independent of the town bureaucracy. Ron asked if either the Bedford or Lexington groups could be expanded to include Arlington. Terry was doubtful. Ron added that a friends group separate from ABAC would allow wider advocacy than just for bicycles`.

Fall bike tour/community event - 2014 with Medford Bike Committee. Joey showed us a possible route, proposed by the Medford Bicycle Committee, for the joint fall bike tour. She asked us to consider the map. Many of us felt that the ride is too short. Phil suggested that we lengthen the portions of the ride that are in Medford and Arlington.

BIKE-Arlington Tour. The Tour Working Group rode the proposed route for this year's tour last week. We all approved of the route they devised. Joey told us that she doesn't yet know whether we will have a police escort.

Bikeway Spring Cleanup. Stephan told us that all the notices and email reminders have been sent out. He was disappointed that Chad Gibson will not be able to participate this year and asked for a volunteer to supervise the cleanup in East Arlington.

Other topics – Arrange Tri-Community Meeting. Joey proposed that the next tri-community meeting be held on June 7, 8:30 AM at Cary Hall in Lexington. Terry asked us to have our positions on the agenda items for the meeting decided in advance so that we can keep the meeting short. We will send our ideas for agenda items, and thoughts on existing items, to Joey by May 1.

Report on National Bike Summit. Jack gave us an overview of the National Bike Summit. He was especially impressed with the Woman's Bike Summit held the day before the general meeting. He told us that he felt that there was great enthusiasm shown by the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation for promoting bicycling as transportation.

Bike-pedestrian conflicts. This topic was again tabled because Rachael was unable to attend.

Bikeway User Counts. Spring Bikeway user counts will be done this year on Tuesday, May 6th and Saturday, May 10th, for 12 hours on each day. Joey asked for volunteers to count Bikeway users for those days.

MAPC Bike Rack Purchasing Program. The new program does not reimburse the price of installed bike racks. However, the racks are available at a discount (typically about 20%). The Town will not be participating in this program of buying racks at this time. The DPW will, however, install racks if they are purchased by businesses in town. Scott suggested that Town road-rebuilding projects should include the installation of bike racks.

Donation of children's bicycle helmets. There is a law firm in Boston providing free bike helmets for children. We will evaluate the quality of the helmet offerings and decide whether we want to give them out at Town Day.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

*indicates that a vote of the ABAC Board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.